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Sunshine Jimmy and of Darknes

By Nat Hentoff

The citizens of Chile clearly were too irresponsible to be left free. Why, Salvador Allende was about to come to power as the result of a democratic election. God knows the CIA had tried terribly hard to save these people from themselves. The Agency had secretly funded—with your tax dollars—huge propaganda campaigns in Chilean newspapers. It had paid workers to stay out on strike to further “destabilize” the situation, and it had spread bountiful anti-Allende bribes around. Nonetheless, the natives had insisted on making up their own minds.

And so, on September 15, 1970, CIA Director Richard Helms attended a meeting with President Richard Nixon, Attorney General John Mitchell, and National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger. The sole item on the agenda was “Track II”—the mounting of a military coup in Chile. (Not Afghanistan. Chile.) When he left, Helms quickly wrote down the essence of the Star Chamber resolution:

*I in 10 chances perhaps, but save Chile!
worth spending
not concerned risks involved
no involvement of embassy
\$10,000,000 available, more if necessary
full-time job—best men we have
game plan
make the economy scream
48 hours for plan of action.*

It didn't work then. Three years later, it did. Largely because of the CIA, American banks, and multinational corporations, Allende was killed, and the childishly free-thinking citizens of Chile were placed under the protectorate of a dictatorship. Many had to be murdered be-

cause of their incurable addiction to liberty, but what the hell, Chile had been saved.

This Helms document—both the handwritten original and a typewritten copy—can be found in the recently published *DOCUMENTS: A shocking collection of memoranda, letters, and telexes from the secret files of the American intelligence community*. Christy Macy and Susan Kaplan assembled and annotated the documents, and the publisher of this invaluable outsize paperback is Penguin.

The book could not have been published without the Freedom of Information Act which, as Macy and Kaplan say, “is responsible for much of what we now know about the clandestine world of the national security apparatus.”

Also in *Documents* is a draft of the anonymous (actually, FBI) letter to Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1964 urging that he commit suicide to forfend the release of tapes made from bugs planted by the FBI in his hotel rooms: “There is but one way out for you. You better take it before your filthy, abnormal fraudulent self is bared to the nation.”

That's an FBI document, but the CIA also spied on King. Not only overseas, but here. As George Lardner, Jr., has pointed out in the *Washington Post*, not a trace of the CIA's surveillance of King appeared “in the extensive congressional or executive branch investigations of the agency conducted in recent years.” But, when Harold Weisberg, a writer from Frederick, Maryland, filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit to get the CIA documents on King, they finally made their way—much to the discomfiture of the Agency—into the light.

There is a long list of crucially instruc-



CIA Director Stansfield Turner:
Only the Shadow knows.

tive books that could not have been written without the FOIA. One is William Shawcross's *Sideshow*. Another is John Marks's *The Search for the 'Manchurian Candidate': The CIA and Mind Control*, just reissued in a McGraw-Hill paperback. In 1975, Marks noticed two sentences in the Rockefeller Commission report on the CIA. They had to do with a “CIA program to study possible means for controlling human behavior” and said that some of the studies had “explored the effects of radiation, electric-shock, psychology, psychiatry, sociology, and harassment substances.”

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